GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:777
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
DAMAGE BY POLLUTION
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report by the World Bank, property worth one crore dollar is damaged and 20 lakh people die every year in the country due to pollution; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) A Report entitled `The Cost of Inaction: Valuing the economy wide cost of Environmental Degradation in India` has been published by the World Bank. This report makes rough estimates of the total magnitude of economic cost associated with environmental degradation in India. The World Bank has also estimated thatabout 40,000 deaths in 36 cities have occurred in 1995 due to air pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm these figures. The Government have taken various steps to control pollution which includes the following: -

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment(Protection) Act, 1986 to check air, water and noise pollution.

(ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipments in a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) A number of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been installed in the industrial estates of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karanataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc.

(iv) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(v) CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(vi) A notification on Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 has been issued on 14.02.2000 to check noise pollution from all sources.

(vii) An Environmental Action Plan to control pollution in Mumbai Metropolitan Region has been prepared and is forwarded to the Government of Maharashtra for implementation.

(viii) Owing to the different measure taken to control vehicular pollution in Delhi, the level of pollutants in the recent years have shown a decreasing trend.

(ix) Environmental Epidemiological studies have been undertaken to find out the extent of health implications due to environmental pollution.